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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

22 February 1968

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COMMENT: The East German news service announced on 7 February that seven million copies of the new draft constitution, Walter Ulbricht's speech introducing the document, and a letter from the party-state chief himself would be delivered to households throughout East Germany. Such is the massive effort to "sell" the new draft.

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Soviets Side-Track East German Rail Cars

An East German-made passenger car which possibly caused a railroad accident in the Soviet Union may force the regime to pull some 600 of the cars out of service on railways throughout Eastern Europe. Twenty-seven of the cars already have been side-tracked in the Soviet Union.

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COMMENT: This may be another case of East German eagerness to rush into production a piece of equipment which has not been fully tested. While much of East Germany's own railway equipment is worn out, it continues to export the latest manufactures in an effort to maintain a reputation as a leading industrial nation in Eastern Europe. This eagerness has been, in many cases, counterproductive and netted instead a reputation for poor quality goods and workmanship.

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Dutch Foreign Minister Luns Ends Hungarian Visit

Dutch Foreign Minister Luns concluded a three-day visit to Hungary on 15 February. During his meetings with Hungarian government officials Luns signed a cultural agreement, an economic, industrial and technical cooperation agreement, and agreed to conclude a public highway transport agreement "before long." Luns also extended an invitation to Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter for a return visit.

A member of Luns' entourage has reported that the Dutch were surprised by the Hungarians' hard line on international questions. The Dutch had to fend off Hungarian attempts to add a "two Germanies" clause to the joint communique. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: The Dutch originally viewed Luns' visit as a protocol gesture. They must have been shocked by the Hungarian attempt to embroil them in the German problem. They now seem to feel they were lured into a demonstrative act of acceptance of the Kadar regime--the first on their part since 1956--and then crudely coerced to change their policies toward East Germany and the NATO Allies.

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were "complex." As far as is known, this was the first such exercise to involve the party/state apparatus since the establishment of the territorial defense system (OTK). The "failure" of the exercise probably reflected the difficulties of coordinating the activities of the various military and civil defense elements which constitute the complex OTK system of rear area defense.

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